Curtailment in Hydro-electric Power due to inadequate rainfall

2317. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inadequate rainfall in the country has curtailed the hydro-electricity generation in the country; and

(b) if so, the measures Government propose to take to meet contingencies like this and augment power generation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Generation from hydro power stations is dependent upon the pattern of rainfall in the catchment areas and reservoir level/inflows in the reservoirs of reservoir based hydro power stations. This year, due to inadequate rainfall, generation from hydro power stations has been affected. As against (generation target of 33,737 MUs for the period 1st April, 2004 to 17th August, 2004, hydel generation has been 33,001 MUs representing a shortfall of 736 MUs (*i.e.* 2.2%). The shortfall in hydel generation during the period 1st April to 17th August, 2004 accounts for meager 0.33% of the overall generation target during this period.

(b) The following steps are being taken to boost the generation to make up the loss in hydel generation:

(i) Postponement of planned maintenance of thermal generating units.

(ii) Bringing back the thermal generating units already taken under planned shutdown on war footing.

(iii) Increase in generation from existing thermal units.

(iv) Close monitoring for ensuring supply of adequate coal to the power plants.

(v) Maximization of generation from gas/liquid fuel plants.

(vi) Ensuring maximum transfer of power from surplus regions/States to deficit regions/States.